



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Contact: Cpl. Lisa Myers
Sherry Llewellyn
(410) 313-2236

Police Remind Citizens to be Safe During the Holiday Season

Howard County Police are encouraging all citizens to shop and celebrate safely during this holiday season. Police officers will provide an increased presence in the county's shopping areas to serve as a deterrent to robberies, shoplifting, thefts and other associated crimes. Police also will conduct speed enforcement activities and be on the lookout for drunk or impaired drivers.

On rare occasions, police have received reports of people impersonating police officers or suspicious subjects attempting to flag down motorists during the busy shopping season. While there have been very few calls of this nature, citizens should be aware of this possible activity. To ensure that this is a safe holiday season, police are offering the following suggestions:

- ~~///~~ Try to park in well-lit areas. Remember it may be dark when you return to your car.
- ~~///~~ Always lock your vehicle and place all valuables out of sight.
- ~~///~~ If you must carry a purse, carry it close to your body with the clasp closed.
- ~~///~~ Do not flash money. Only bring what money you will need.
- ~~///~~ If possible, utilize ATM machines during daylight hours that are located inside commercial establishments.
- ~~///~~ Never leave your purse or valuables unattended.
- ~~///~~ Be alert to suspicious persons or vehicles in the area.
- ~~///~~ Have your keys in hand to avoid any unnecessary delays in entering your vehicle. Lock your doors after entering.
- ~~///~~ Always remember to buckle your seatbelt and don't drink and drive.
- ~~///~~ Report suspicious activity or people by calling 911.

The Howard County Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Additional crime prevention information is available on the Howard County Police Department's Web site at www.hcpd.org.

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